

The shaft portion 34 is hollow and defines a recess 65 for receiving a drive shaft (not shown) of the drive means in driving connection with the element 35. For this purpose the opening 65 has three axially extending ribs 69 or drive dogs for engaging corresponding slots in the drive shaft.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 33-58 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 59-77 as follows:

59. (New) A container for blending food product comprising:

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a vessel having an upper opening through which food product is chargeable into the vessel,

a lid for closing the upper opening, the lid being fitted over the opening and secured without the use of a screw threaded connection,

blending means for blending the food product in the container, the blending means including an impeller mounted on the lid for rotation relative thereto and for location within the container, the blending means further being drivably connectable to drive means external to the container, the impeller being united with the lid during use, and securing means arranged to engage the container for securing the vessel during blending, wherein the container vessel is nestable with other container vessels by a lower, narrower end of the vessel being locatable into the upper opening of another vessel.

60. (New) A container according to claim 59, wherein the container is locatable in a seating in an inverted position during blending.

61. (New) A container according to claim 60, wherein the contents of the container are able to be heated by heating means when on said scating.

62. (New) A container according to claim 59, wherein the securing means includes means for releasably locating the container between a container support on which the vessel is supported during blending and a securing member engageable with the vessel.

63. (New) A container according to claim 59, wherein the lid includes access means arranged to permit access to the food product in the vessel when the lid and vessel are in an assembled condition.

64. (New) A container according to claim 63, wherein the access means is an opening through the lid, the opening being closed during blending.

65. (New) A container according to claim 59, wherein the impeller is mounted for rotation relative to the lid by location through an opening in the lid as a push fit, and wherein the impeller is secured in the opening by an integral clip.

66. (New) A container according to claim 65, wherein the impeller includes a shaft forming a bearing surface against the walls of the opening, the shaft being integral with impeller blades of the impeller.

67. (New) A container according to claim 59, wherein the impeller is of one piece plastics construction.

68. (New) A container lid comprising blending means including an impeller arranged to be rotatable relative to the lid and having impeller blades projecting from one side of the lid so that, when assembled with a container, the impeller blades are rotatable

within the container to which the lid is fitted, the impeller being located on the lid through an opening in the lid as a push fit through said opening and being secured in the opening by an integral clip.

69. (New) A container lid according to claim 68, wherein the impeller is of one piece plastics construction.

70. (New) A container lid according to claim 68, wherein the impeller includes a shaft forming an outer bearing surface against the walls of the opening into which it is located.

71. (New) A blending apparatus for blending food product comprising a vessel and a lid for the vessel, the lid housing blending means including an impeller extending into the vessel in use and being rotatable relative to the lid, drive means for driving the impeller, mounting means for supporting the container, securing means arranged to engage the container during blending for securing the vessel onto the mounting means, and drive connection means for connecting the drive means and the impeller, the vessel being nestable with other vessels.

72. (New) A blending apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the vessel is invertably mounted on the container mounting means during a blending operation, the blending means extending upwards into the vessel, the securing means restraining movement of the container from a blending position.

73. (New) A blending apparatus according to claim 71, comprising a jug into which the vessel is located during a blending operation, wherein the vessel is secured on the mounting means during blending.

74. (New) A blending apparatus for blending food products comprising:

a vessel having an upper opening through which food product is chargeable into the vessel,

a lid for closing the upper opening,

blending means for blending the food product in the vessel,

drive means for driving the blending means during blending, and

an adapter interconnecting the blending means and the drive means, the adapter including a coupling drivingly engageable at one end with the blending means, and at the opposite end with the drive means,

the blending means including an impeller mounted on the lid for rotation relative thereto and for location within the vessel, the impeller being united with the lid during use, wherein the vessel is nestable with other vessels before assembly with the lid.

75. (New) A blending apparatus according to claim 74, comprising mounting means including the drive means, the adapter being arranged to fit at one end onto the mounting means, and, at the other end, the adapter being arranged to receive said vessel in an inverted position.

76. (New) A blending apparatus for blending food product comprising a vessel having an upper opening through which food product is chargeable into the vessel,

a lid for closing the upper opening,

blending means for blending food product in the vessel,

drive means driveably connectable to the blending means, and